

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LAGOS 02053 171252Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----067324 171253Z /53

O 171200Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6614
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BANJUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LAGOS 2053

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, PORG, USSC, ET, SO
SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON THE HORN

REF: (A) STATE 420001, (B) USUN 0550

1. OBASANJO, GARBA, AKADIRI DEPARTED EARLY THIS MORNING FOR STATE VISITS TO GAMBIA, LIBERIA AND LIBYA. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED GARBA AND AKADIRI WILL REMAIN IN TRIPOLI FOR OAU MEETING. THIS TRIO IS THE ONLY SOURCE OF ACTION DECISIONS WITH REGARD CURRENT HORN PROBLEMS. WE ARE INFORMING MEA NOW RPT NOW OF RELEVANT PORTIONS OF REFTEL INSTRUCTION. NO RPT NO POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER, THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT ACTION WILL BE TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO OUR PRESENTATION. THE BEST IT MIGHT PRODUCE WOULD BE INFORMATION ON WHEREABOUTS OF REPORTED ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION TO LAGOS AND MEA PROMISE TO INFORM GARBA OF

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OUR MESSAGE FOR HIM. HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE THAT SUCH MESSAGE WILL BE ACCURATELY TRANSMITTED TO GARBA - IF AT ALL. THEREFORE, WE URGE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE EMBASSY BANJUL TO PASS WRITTEN TEXT OF MESSAGE TO HIM IN BANJUL. IF CONTACT WITH HIM NOT POSSIBLE THERE, EMBASSY MONROVIA COULD PICK IT UP. OBASANJO AND PARTY BELIEVED TO BE SPENDING TODAY AND OVERNIGHT IN BANJUL, TOMORROW SATURDAY AND OVERNIGHT IN MONROVIA, WITH DEPARTURE FOR TRIPOLI SUNDAY MORNING

19TH.

2. WE ANTICIPATE FMG WILL MAINTAIN ITS OPPOSITION TO SC ACTION UNTIL IT HAS TALKED AT LEAST WITH ETHIOPIANS IF NOT WITH BOTH ETHIOPIANS AND SOMALIA. HOWEVER, AS FOR SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED DRAFT RESOLUTION GIVEN IN REFTEL B, BELIEVE NIGERIANS WOULD RESPOND FAVORABLY TO EMPHASIS RESOLUTION PUTS ON ROLE OF OAU MEDIATION COMMISSION AND GENERAL RECOGNITION GIVEN TO SUPPORT OF OAU EFFORTS AS WELL AS POSSIBLE ROLE FOR OAU OBSERVATION TEAM. WE CONJECTURE, HOWEVER, THAT NIGERIANS WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTIES WITH PARAGRAPH 1-A REFERENCE TO WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES 'FROM THE TERRITORY OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT.' THEY WILL DOUBTLES& NOTE THAT PARAGRAPH SIX ASSIGNS OBSERVATION TEAM A MONITORING RESPONSIBILITY ONLY FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM OGADEN, NOT RPT NOT FROM THE MUCH BROADER AREA. EMBASSY QUESTIONS WHETHER RESOLUTION WILL SURVIVE IF IT KEEPS THIS BROAD WITHDRAWAL REQUIREMENT.
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